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Impacts of Economic Globalisation on Human Rights in Australia's Foreign Policy : A Case Study of East Timor

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Impacts of Economic Globalisation on Human Rights in Australia's Foreign Policy : A Case Study of East Timor

**A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the
award of the degree**

Masters – Research

from

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

by

Hiromi Koizumi

Master of Arts, University of Wollongong

**History and Politics Program, CAPSTRANS
2007**

Thesis Certification

CERTIFICATION

I, Hiromi Koizumi, declare that this thesis, submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master – Research, in School of History and Politics, and CAPSTRAN University of Wollongong, is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. The Document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

Hiromi Koizumi

22 August 2007

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Abbreviations

ALP	Australian Labor Party
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CMATS	Treaty on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ETTA	East Timor Transitional Administration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICCPR	International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICESR	International Covenant on Social and Economic Rights
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTERFET	International Force East Timor for Peace Enforcement
IUA	International Utilization Agreement
JPDA	Joint Petroleum Development Area
MNC	Multinational Corporation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCC	National Consultative Council
NGO	Non-government organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance

OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SAP	Structural Adjust Force
TFET	Trust Fund for East Timor
TNI	Indonesian Armed Forces
TST	Timor Sea Treaty
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNAMET	United Nations Mission in East Timor
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
WTO	World Trade Organization
ZOC	Zone of Cooperation

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to explore the complex relationships between Australia's approaches to human rights (HR) and to globalisation. This thesis examines the ways in which global economic activity, otherwise called economic globalisation, has influenced or determined Australia's foreign policy with regards to HR. This research investigates the complex relationships between Australia's Human Rights in its foreign policy and globalisation since the 1970s, by exploring the interaction between ongoing globalisation and Australian foreign policy. Its central argument is that Australia's foreign policy with regards to HR has been compromised by globalisation in the pursuit of its own national economic interests. Australia's lack of morality under its foreign policy has failed to take a state's moral obligation with regard to human rights, as international human rights principles and agreements require.

This thesis critically analyses a nexus between the support and promotion of the HR approaches of Australian foreign policies since the 1970s on the one hand, and Australia's enthusiastic embrace of economic globalisation, on the other. It is argued that Australian foreign policy has been aimed at establishing an approach toward globalisation which gives priority to national business interests. This has resulted in inconsistent approaches to HR, especially with regards to Australia's nearest neighbour, East Timor. By exploring approaches of Australian Governments with regards to HR, especially some maritime boundary treaties of the Timor Sea that Australia has conducted and concluded, this thesis examines and shows the way in which Australian foreign policy has been shaped by economic global views, which in turn have had increasingly adverse effects on its international human rights policies. The case study of Australia's policies on East Timor reveal increasing inconsistency between HR principles and actions.

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